

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:288
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2010
BROADCASTING IN TRIBAL AREAS
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any scheme for expanding Doordarshan/ All India Radio broadcasting network in tribal and inaccessible areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has allocated adequate funds in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof during the said period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 288 FOR ANSWER ON 30.11.12010

Prasar Bharati has informed that both Doordarshan and AIR have been assigning priority to expansion & improvement of their service in tribal & inaccessible areas of the country, in various expansion plans implemented from time to time. Special Packages for J&K, North Eastern States & Island territories of Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep have also been implemented.

There are 1415 transmitters in Doordarshan network, which include 732 transmitters in tribal & inaccessible areas. Areas uncovered by terrestrial transmitters (including tribal & inaccessible areas), alongwith rest of the country, have been provided with multi channel TV coverage through Doordarshan's free to air DTH service "DD Direct Plus", signals of which can be received anywhere in the country with the help of small sized dish receive units.

52 TV transmitter projects approved at a cost of Rs.94.2 crore have been commissioned in tribal & inaccessible areas during the last three years & the current year (State-wise details are given at the Annexure I).

Presently, the broadcasting service of All India Radio is being provided from 237 places across the country. State wise details of locations are given at Annexure-II. AIR terrestrial coverage is 91.85% (by area) and 99.18% (by population). In addition, AIR is also providing 21 radio channels on Ku band on DD Direct plus platform which are available all over India except Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

It is planned to provide AIR's coverage to 100% population of the country. In order to augment the coverage, power of 28 transmitters is being upgraded in the country during the 11th Plan. State-wise details are given at Annexure -III. Also, 298 nos. of Transmitters of various capacities are being installed throughout the country during the 11th Plan. State-wise details are given at Annexure - IV. These transmitters would also provide coverage in tribal/ inaccessible areas. Between 2007-08 and 2010-11, a budget of `718.4 Crore has been allocated for the completion of these projects.

For further expansion & improvement of AIR & TV coverage in J&K, a scheme involving an outlay of 100 crore has been approved during the current year. As part of this scheme, five high power TV transmitters are envisaged to be set up in J&K.